



**Mount Baker Park Play Area Renovation
COMMUNITY MEETING #1 NOTES**

Thursday, May 22, 2014 – 6:30p – 7:45p
Mount Baker Community Clubhouse
2811 Mt Rainier Drive South Seattle, WA 98144

This is the first of three community meetings for the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy Improvement project at Mount Baker Park Play Area. Parks staff presented the goals and site analysis for the renovation project. Community attendees were interacting with staff during the presentation on questions and comments. Parks will compile all input from the community to inform the design for the renovation of the play area and park. The second design meeting will present the concept plan on summer 2014.

Attendees:

Jeron A. Gates, Project Planner of Seattle Parks and Recreation
Shwu-Jen Hwang, Sr. Landscape Architect of Seattle Parks and Recreation
Kevin Schmidt, Project Manager of Seattle Parks and Recreation
29 Community Members (24 adults, 5 children)

Design Background

Scope:

Bring the play area into compliance with current play area safety standards and guideline of American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), as well as meets ADA requirements. Improve the connection between the play pods, include a new ADA path connecting to the sidewalk, bus stop and to parking by tennis courts;

Budget:

The total budget for the improvements is \$550,000 for the Park. Funding is made available through the King County 2013 Park Levy.. The project budget cover all costs associated with the project including administration, design, permits, bidding and construction.

Meeting Comments:

- playground was rebuilt in 1992 with Neighborhood Matching Funds. retaining walls surrounding playground part of original 1992 plan, design was to simulate river flow; narrow play area with divider logs next to Oak Tree resembles stream.
- stairs & trail in poor conditions from access at 34th Ave S. & S. Lander. Need to improve with steps and also consider carrying bikes.

Response: The majority of the area in question is in ROW. Will investigate the conditions.

- tree roots upheaving asphalt pavement on west side of play area, tripping hazards.
- bathrooms in poor condition, can funds be used to upgrade?
- drinking fountain not functioning.
- improve access from S. College St., north end of park.
- Swampy area north of tennis court.

- keep the existing zip line, has a 'thrill factor' not found with the newer zip lines (ex. Madison Park, 'no thrill'). You can sit or stand. You can hold your kid and zip.
- maintain tree groves surrounding play area (protect trees). It offers nice natural play experience. Integrate play in environment.
- maintain existing character of park, 'keep as is', 'Madison Park was ruined when it was upgraded'. majority of newer playgrounds starting to look alike, generic in style. We like our park.
- access for wheelchair into play areas is limited, improve with ramps from cobblestone wall, similar to Seward Park playground.
- add wheelchair/elderly swing to play area.
- improve play area surface, add rubber surface. Wood chip is not wheel chair accessible if not maintained.

Response: If cost is an issue, maybe combination of wood chips and rubberized surface.

- why was pea gravel removed years ago and replaced with wood/fiber?

Response: Play area safety surfacing is required to reduce head impact injury. It's possible to introduce materials such as pea gravel for creative building or manipulation.

- put funds into ADA trails versus fixing existing structures.
- maintain elements of adventure for play area, similar to playgrounds in Europe.
- high percentage of adults visit park for recreational activities. Consider senior people's needs. Maybe add shelter at seating area, provide picnic/game tables, add adult exercise equipment & recreation elements.
- prefer subdued colors for play equipment, no bright primary colors, maintain existing muted natural appearance, fits with theme/character of existing area.
- keep existing footprint of play area. Like existing park/play area. It's mellow, natural like. Don't make it a destination park.
- keep natural features of logs between areas.
- Provide sense of adventure.
- Article in the Atlantic about adventure playground in Europe.
- Keep it simple, not too busy, but offer sense of danger.
- add boulders for climbing.
- Like rope course offered by Kompan. Provide nature and adventure experience.

- Potential of hill side play experience with lengthy climbing structures weaving through trees....
- Like Seattle Children's Playground.
- existing sight lines from east side open turf area are good for play area, maintain into new design.
- Kids grow out of 2-5 play equipment quickly. It did not get used that often. avoid specific aged areas, interest level of children varies, not age limited to specific areas. May not need to expand 2-5 area.
 - Response: Different age groups have different regulation requirements. It was required to have signed separate age group play areas. Will provide progressive play experience meeting needs from different ages with different capabilities.
- preserve existing memorial chairs (donated 'in memory of').
- preserve icons in cobblestones surrounding play area.
- zip line used by all ages-adults, children, keep as is, avoid zip line at Madison Park, is poor, no thrill. Mt. Baker has the only seated version, versus the others with ropes-difficult for children to grasp.
- avoid generic look of new play structures (Seward, Madison Park), all look the same.
- The metal seats in retaining wall carved out area are dangerous. Consider to make it all wall or change it to steps.
- The large open lawn adjoining the play equipment is heavily used year round and is at least as important as the swings, climbers, zip line etc. People use open lawn for catch (balls), soccer, touch football, kites, frisbees, little bikes and just plain running around or community event. Consider to update the surface of the lawn.
- Main criteria: Nature, Simple, Semi-danger, Unique to the community.
- Monkey bars

Mount Baker Park Play Area Renovation Timeline	2014 Quarters				2015 Quarters			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Pro View – Internal Parks review of proposed project elements.	★	★	★	★				
Community Meeting #1 – Early discussions with community members and presentation of site analysis.		May 22						
<i>Schematic Design Complete</i>			★					
Community Meeting #2 –Presentation of schematic design.			★					
Community Meeting #3 - Presentation of final design								
Pro View Technical Review – Internal Technical Review of 65% Construction Drawings				★				
Pro View Technical Review – Internal Technical Review of 95% Construction Drawings					★			
<i>Design Development and Construction Drawings Complete</i>						★		
Construction							★	
Project Close Out								★

For more information contact:

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